SIZZZ...
SIZZZ...
SHISUI'S HAIR ORNAMENT CERTAINLY CAME IN HANDY.
NOM
NICELY ROASTED!
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT WAS ACTUALLY...
LOULAN'S IDEA TO SEND ME TO THE PIT.

Chapter 80: Feifa

GRR...
MM. FULL OF PRE-HIBER-NATION FAT.
THOUGH THIS WOULD BE EVEN BETTER WITH SALT.
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THAT'S THE GUARD THAT KYOU-U WAS HARASSING.
I'M EATING.
COULD YOU SPARE SOME SALT?
OBVIOUSLY NOT!

ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT'S...
SNAKE? YES.
...YOU COULD'VE JUST TOLD ME THAT WAS FISH.
EURGH...
FUNNY THING TO SAY.
FOR MANY PEOPLE, IT MAY AS WELL BE HELL ITSELF.
AUGH!
SLITHER
ISN'T THIS SUPPOSED TO BE A TORTURE CHAMBER?

DON'T WORRY.
SNAKES AREN'T REALLY INCLINED TO ATTACK PEOPLE.
AND I NEUTRALIZED THE VENOMOUS ONES ANYWAY.
THIS ROOM IS TOTALLY HARMLESS.
NOOO...
AND, JUST TO BE SAFE...
...I BURNED SOME VERY STRONG-SMELLING HERBS TO WARD THEM AWAY.
BECAUSE I'M AN APOTHECARY! I'VE ALWAYS GOT AN HERB OR TWO UP MY SLEEVE.
WHY DID YOU HAVE THAT ON YOU?

AS MUCH AS I'D HAVE LOVED TO TRY THEIR VENOM.
THE COLD WEATHER MAKES THEM SLUGGISH.
I'M AMAZED NONE OF THE VENOMOUS ONES NICKED YOU.
THESE HAIRPINS MADE QUICK WORK OF THEM.
EVEN WITH SO MANY SNAKES AND INSECTS LET LOOSE INTO THIS CELL...
...NOT EVEN HALF OF THEM WERE VENOMOUS.
IT MUST BE HARD TO ROUND UP SNAKES IN THE WINTER.
THE FROGS ATE THE SLUGGISH INSECTS...
... BEFORE BEING LAID LOW BY THE POISON.

I WAS ASKED TO.
YOU TOOK THE BLAME FOR ALL OF US AND LET YOURSELF BE DRAGGED TO THE TORTURE CHAMBERS.
SO, SUIREI...
BOO HOO...
WHY DID I EVEN COME HERE?
ACTUALLY, I WAS WONDERING THAT, TOO. WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
...AND THAT BRAT...
...INSISTED I HELP YOU SOMEHOW.
SO HERE I AM.
I EVEN GOT A JADE ORNAMENT OUT OF THE DEAL.

YOU WON'T BE SEEING ME AROUND HERE ANYMORE. I'M DONE.
FRANKLY, I'M FED UP WITH ALL OF THIS ANYWAY.
YOU'D BE SMART TO TAKE THIS CHANCE TO SLIP AWAY, TOO.
FORCES FROM THE CAPITAL WILL BE HERE SOON.
THE SMOKE SIGNALS SAYING AS MUCH HAVE EVERYONE IN A PANIC.
RSTL
THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP.
NOW WE'RE EVEN.
... BEFORE THE GUARD WAKES UP.
GO ON AND STEAL A HORSE ...

BE SURE YOU STEER CLEAR OF THE STAIRS LEADING DOWN.
THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE DOWN THERE, NOT TO MENTION THE RANCID SMELL.
OH, WAIT.
WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?
UM...
LOTS OF STUFF. BAD STUFF. AND...
...I THINK THEY'RE MAKING BLACK POWDER DOWN THERE.

SHEEEN
...
ZOOOOM
HEY!
WERE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?!
YOUR INPUT IS MUCH APPRE-CIATED.
I'LL HEAD THERE RIGHT AWAY!
FWM
IT'S WARM.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

PEEK
I COULD SMELL IT IN MY CHAMBERS NOW AND THEN.
THE STENCH OF FERMENTED FECES.
AND THIS IS THE SOURCE?

CRNCH
CRNCH
FWMP
FWMP
THAT BLACK PILE IS ANIMAL DUNG.
BUT IT LOOKS TOO SMALL TO BE FROM LIVESTOCK ...
I'VE HEARD ANIMAL DUNG CONTAINS SALTPETER BEFORE.
THEY MUST BE USING THAT TO MAKE THE BLACK POWDER.
AND THIS ROOM IS KEPT INCREDIBLY WARM SO IT DRIES QUICKLY.

EVEN STILL, THIS IS ALARMING.
... MUST BE TAKEN OUT THROUGH THAT EXIT.
THE FINISHED BLACK POW-DER ...
...BUT A SINGLE SPARK COULD SET ALL OF THIS OFF.
THEY WRAP CURTAINS AROUND THE BRAZIERS, AND KEEP THEM AT A DISTANCE ...
... KNOW THE DANGERS THEY FACE?
DO THE MEN WORKING HERE ...
AND THE AIR IS THICK WITH WASTE. BREATHING IN TOO MUCH COULD LEAD TO POISONING.

CLACK
CLACK
SOME-ONE'S COMING.
CLACK
SWSH
CLACK
CLACK
BA-THMP
BA-THMP
BA-THMP

LOULA
...

THIS PLACE IS HARDLY SUITABLE FOR ONE SUCH AS YOU.
DO YOU NEED SOME-THING?
MY LADY ?!
ALL OF YOU SHOULD LEAVE RIGHT AWAY.

THIS FORTRESS WILL FALL BEFORE LONG.
TOSS
YOU MUST NOT BE HERE WHEN THAT HAPPENS.

S...
JANGLE
WOOOAAAH
SILVER!
IT'S REAL!
OOOHHH
WHAT ?!

GRABBED AS MUCH AS YOU CAN?
GOOD.
SWSH
THEN BE ON YOUR WAY.

TOSS
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
CRACK
カシャ

ドン
BOOOOM
ォォ

I SHOULD GET GOING, TOO.
AAAUGH...
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
BOOM
FWOAAAH
AA AAA UGH!
THD
FWUMP

TUG
THMP
THMP
THMP
...
OH!
MAOMAO? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

...
I'D ASK YOU THE SAME THING.
SUIREI AND KYOU-U GOT THAT GUARD...
...TO COME HELP ME.
THE SNAKES MADE FOR A DECENT MEAL.
SWSH
MY! I FIGURED YOU'D HANDLE THAT CHAMBER WITH GRACE, BUT...
HEE HEE
...I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW!
ARE YOU UNHARMED?

NEVER-MIND THAT. HURRY.
BEFORE THE NEXT EXPLOSION.
AND SHE'S THE GIRL WHO EATS BUGS.
FWP
THE FIRE WILL SPREAD THERE, AND FAST!
WAIT! DON'T GO UP!

THAT'S FINE.
I HAVE TO GO UPSTAIRS EITHER WAY.
YOU'RE COMING WITH?
DON'T BREATHE IN THE SMOKE. COVER YOUR MOUTH.